

STATE OF COLORADO

BUREAU OF MINES

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

District No. _____

Rico

Colorado

May 18, 1940 193

RICO - ARGENTINE MINE

Name of Mine, Quarry or Plant

Location 2 miles east of Rico, Colo. County of Dolores
 (Nearest Post Office) Rico, Colorado (Pioneer Mining District)
reached by auto and trail

Owner

Rico Argentine Mining Company

Address

Dooley Block, Salt Lake City, Utah

Operator

(Owner or Lessee) Rico Argentine Mining Company

Address

J.G. Johnson, President
151 First Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah
W.G. Seeley, Secretary
123 Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah
Edward Birt, General Superintendent, Rico, Colo.

Name of Agent, General Manager or other officer on whom to serve notices

C.T. Van Winkle, Gen. Manager, Dooley Block, Salt Lake City,
Utah.

Name and address of local manager or person in direct charge of operations at mine, quarry or plant

C.T. Van Winkle, Gen. Manager, Dooley Block, Salt Lake City, Utah

Character of ore or other products Sulphides, carrying gold, silver, lead, iron
pyrites, copper and zinc.

Number employed underground, 60

On surface 5

Mill 10 Miscellaneous 5

Remarks COMPENSATION INSURANCE is carried.
ACCIDENT REPORT BLANKS are on hand.

HAVE TELEPHONE.

FIRST AID SUPPLIES are provided.

HAVE CHANGE ROOMS.

SAFETY & SANITARY CONDITIONS, in general, are satisfactory.

DESCRIPTION OF MINE: This property is developed by five levels, at
 different distances apart. During this year the company has carried on the following develop-
 ment and prospecting program: They advanced the Blaine Tunnel, which
 is the main haulageway, in a southeasterly direction and cross-cut to

is the main shaft. In a compass direction from the main shaft to the hanging wall of the Blackhawk fissure making a total of 708 ft. of drift and cuts. They have completed the 349 ft. 3-compartment raise which connects the Blaine Tunnel with the Argentine Level. On this Blaine Level they have done 708 ft. of diamond drill prospecting. They also sunk a 10 ft. winze, making a total of 1772 ft. of developing and prospecting on the Blaine Level.

On the Humbolt Tunnel Level they drifted 32 ft. on the Humbolt fissure. This level is 40 ft. above the Blaine or Main Tunnel.

In the Argentine Tunnel, which is midway between Blaine and Black Hawk Tunnels, they have extended the drift on the Allegheny fissure 81 ft. and the raise 49 ft. besides sinking a winze 9 ft., making a total of 138 ft. of development on the Argentine Level.

At the Black Hawk Tunnel or Log Cabin Level, they have raised 31 ft. and drifted 150 ft. on the Allegheny fissure.

The ore is found in beds or chimneys of various sizes and in fissure veins varying in width to 8 or more feet. The ore is a sulphide, carrying gold, silver, lead, copper, iron and zinc. Stated value is \$18.00 per ton.

Lead-zinc ore is mined in the Blaine Tunnel in 100 Stope, 104 Stope, 102 Stope, 103 Raise, 100 Raise, No. 2 Stope on No. 1 Bed and No. 2 Stope on No. 2 Bed, in the Humbolt Tunnel on the Humbolt fissure, or the Argentine Level in Argentine Bed No. 4, No. 1 and No. 2 and on Black Hawk Level in Black Hawk Bed No. 6.

Copper ore is mined in the Blaine Tunnel only, in 100 Stope, 101 Stope, No. 3 Stope of No. 1 Bed and Copper Stope.

They are milling about 100 tons per day of lead and zinc ore. They ship about 420 wet tons of lead and zinc concentrates per month.

When milling copper ore they mill 104 tons per day. They ship about 22 dry tons of copper concentrates per month.

SURFACE PLANT: The modern Flotation Mill is of 150 tons capacity and is of concrete and steel construction covered with galvanized corrugated iron. Equipment consists of Ore Bins, Crusher, Grizzlies, Ball Mill, Classifier, Flotation Units, Conditioning Tanks, Thickening Tanks, Filters, Pumps, Conveyor Belts, etc. An inclined Conveyor Belt delivers the ore from the Crusher to 500 ton capacity Secondary Ore Bins, thence to the Ball Mill.

At the Blaine Tunnel they have enlarged the Dry and Change Room by a 40' x 13' one-story addition of wood construction covered with galvanized corrugated iron, equipped with 2 showers and individual lockers. The Blacksmith Shop has also been enlarged and improved. Other buildings at Blaine Tunnel include Assay Laboratory, a building housing Mill Office, Store Room and a fully equipped First Aid Room, and other small buildings used for various purposes, Tram Terminals, Ore Bins and Snow Sheds. The main Surface Explosives Storage Magazine is at Blaine Tunnel.

No SHAFT.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD is Battery Locomotive. All this equipment is in good condition.

TIMBERING: considerable timbering is necessary in this mine and is well installed.

ALL OPENINGS are well covered and guarded.

LADDERS are well installed and in good condition.

EXPLOSIVES are safely stored in well built magazines, complying with the law, at Blaine Tunnel and Black Hawk Tunnel.

CAPS are stored in a safe place.

CARBIDE is safely stored in a dry place.

Only one day's supply of explosives is taken to the Argentine Tunnel and it is safely stored.

All these tunnels are equipped with Electric Blasting Machines, and both electric and hand fuse blasting is done.

ELECTRICITY is used at lower (Blaine) Tunnel for power purposes and surface lighting. It is well installed, insulated and guarded. All stations underground are electrically lighted and have telephones to the surface in all stations.

FIRE PROTECTION at Blaine Tunnel consists of water and chemical extinguishers. Tunnel is equipped with Fire Door.

At Black Hawk Tunnel fire protection is chemical extinguishers.

Buildings are located at a safe distance from mine operations. Tunnel is equipped with Fire Door.

Fire Protection at Argentine Tunnel is chemical. Buildings are located legal distance from tunnel opening. Have Fire Door.

VENTILATION is both natural and mechanical.

MISCELLANEOUS: This property operated continuously throughout the year. Milling of lead and zinc ores and of copper ores is done on separate days which explains the different tonnages.

They started milling operations in September 1939, and have operated continuously to-date.

They have a very successful tailings disposal plant.

The company owns a building in Rico, 40' x 30' which houses a large caterpillar tractor, and has living room in rear.

Everything is exceptionally clean and orderly about this property.

Respectfully submitted,

D. C. McVaughan

State Metal Mine Inspector, Dist No. 4

Nov. 16, 1940

Page 3 St. Louis Tunnel

in driving the main heading and for raising and drifting at that point. Equipment consists of electrically driven reversible blower, and large flexible tubing.

FIRE PROTECTION is both water and chemical extinguishers. All surface buildings are spaced a safe distance apart and are built of wood covered with galvanized corrugated iron.

MISCELLANEOUS: The ore is found in beds and fissure veins of various widths and sizes, and consists of massive sulphides, carrying lead, zinc, copper and considerable silver. In various parts of the mine are immense beds of iron pyrites.

An unusual feature of this property is the warm springs located beyond the Mountain Springs Raise in the northwestern drift. These springs rise from the side of the main tunnel, and particularly through a diamond drill hole. Warm water from this drill hole is used for drilling purposes.

Experienced miners are employed at all times, and every precaution is taken to safe-guard both men and property.

Everything is clean and orderly in and about the property.

Respectfully submitted

D. C. McNaughton

State Metal Mine Inspector, District No. 4

BOM 1942a

Page 3.

Rico-Argentine Mine

ALL OPENINGS are well covered and guarded.
LADDERS are well installed and in good condition.

EXPLOSIVES: are safely stored in well built magazines. Also underground distributing magazines for daily supply of powder are kept under lock and key.

Present powder regulations are fully observed. Licensed mine foremen dispense powder to the various working places. They also keep a record of who receives the powder and where it is used. They alone have the keys to the magazine.

CAPS are safely stored.

CARBIDE is stored in a safe dry place.

Both electric and hand fuse blasting is practiced.

ELECTRICITY is used at lower (Blaine) Tunnel for power purposes and surface lighting. It is well installed, insulated and guarded. All stations underground are electrically lighted and have telephone to the surface in all stations.

FIRE PROTECTION consists of high pressure water and chemical extinguishers and temporary fire doors.

VENTILATION is both natural and mechanical with electrically driven blowers.

MISCELLANEOUS: This property operated continuously throughout the year.

Since last report the Rico Argentine Mining Company has acquired over 250 acres from the Pellet interests at Rico. They have also acquired all the holdings of the International Lead Company of Rico.

Since last report, they installed a new saw mill, and they are now sawing considerable timber of their own to augment supplies available from other sources.

They are also installing a new electrically-driven pump at the Argentine Shaft.

They are experiencing considerable shortage of labor.

Priorities seem to be satisfactory.

They have a very successful tailings disposal plant.

The company owns a building in Rico, 40' x 30' which houses a large caterpillar tractor, and has living room in rear.

Everything is exceptionally clean and orderly about this property.

The Company cooperates fully with the Bureau of Mines and insists upon observance of safety rules and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

D. C. McNaughton
State Metal Mine Inspector, District No. 4

B of Mines

Mining Record 9-25-41

RICO / HAS MADE REPORT FOR HALF OF 1941

Rico, Colo. — For the first six months of 1941 the Rico Argentine Mining Co. reports profit of \$19,818 after deductions for depreciation and depletion but before federal and state income taxes. This compares with \$25,233 for the like period of 1940 and \$30,167 for the previous six months.

Gross income, including \$102,090 in lead sales and \$101,543 zinc sales, totaled \$205,574 against \$179,289 for the first half of 1940.

Company offices are at 132 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah, and James B. Hagle of Los Angeles is president.

MAKES REPORT ON 1942 OPERATION

Rico, Colo. — C. T. Van Winkle of Salt Lake City, president and general manager of the Rico Argentine Mining Co. operating here, shows in his annual report for 1942 a net profit to surplus of \$80,802 before provision for depletion, compared with \$60,074 in 1941. Total returns amounted to \$471,291 and total expense including \$72,028 for new equipment and construction came to \$410,688.

Metals produced from 3355 tons of lead concentrates and 6045 tons of zinc concentrates were as follows:

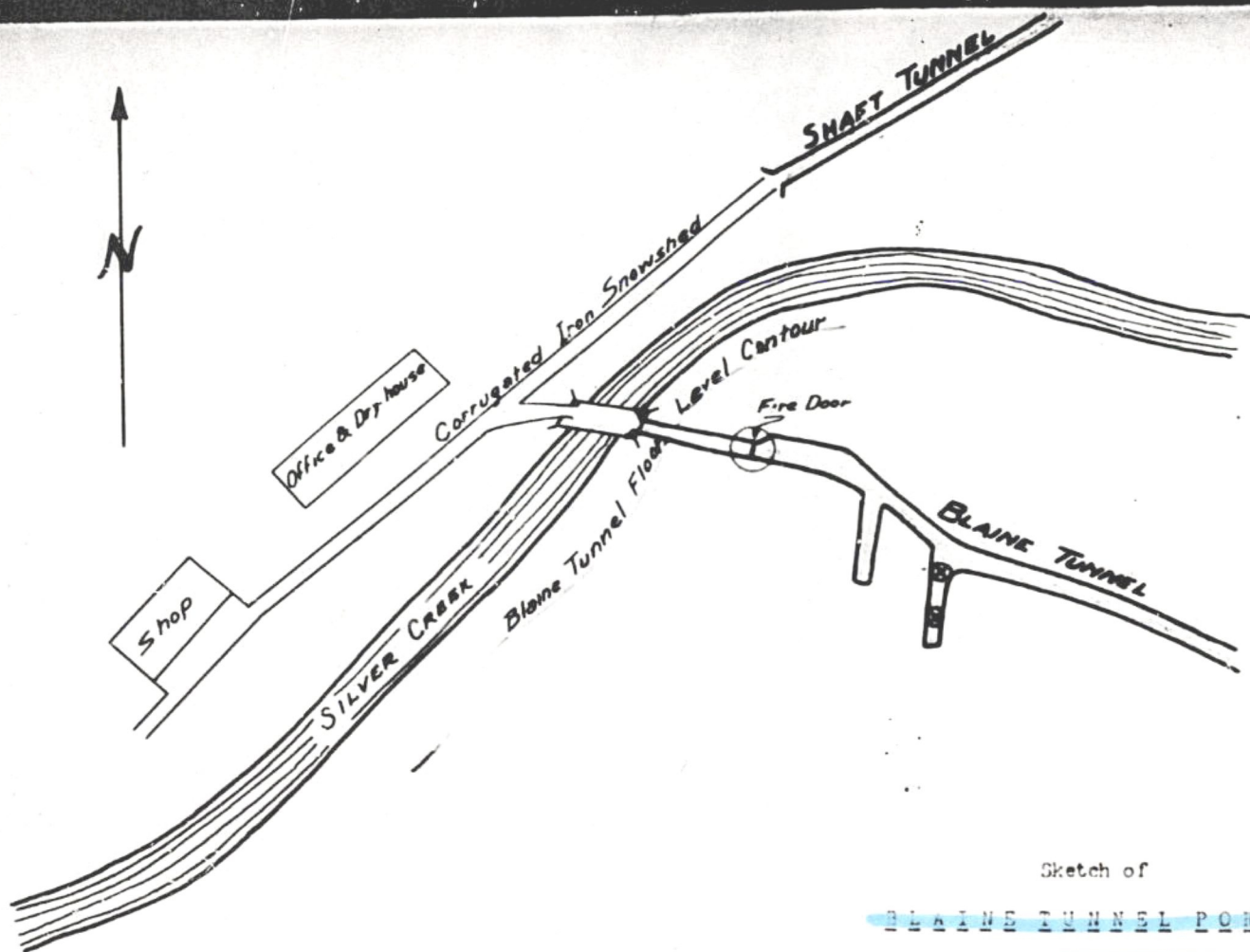
Gold in lead concentrate, 67.58 oz.; gold in zinc concentrate, 70.10; total gold, 137.68 oz.

Silver in lead concentrate, 86,807 oz.; silver in zinc concentrate, 32,902 oz.; total silver, 119,709 oz.

Lead in lead concentrate, 4,549,543 lbs.; lead in zinc concentrate, 435,970 lbs.; total lead, 4,985,513 lbs.

Zinc in lead concentrate, 349,430 lbs.; zinc in zinc concentrate, 5,915,153 lbs.; total zinc, 6,264,583 lbs.

In addition, 2178 tons of pyritic ore were mined and sold to vanadium producers. The grade of ore was improving during 1942 and the management expects favorable results during 1943. Current quick assets total \$93,482 and current liabilities \$47,438. Total development for the year included 3500 feet of drifting, crosscutting, raising, caving and shaft sinking, as well as 800 feet of diamond core drilling.



Sketch of

BLAINE TUNNEL PORTAL

Mico Argentine Line

Scale 1" = 50'

April, 1942

H. T. Venable

206
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P

IMPORTANT

BLANKS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT AND RETURNED BY MARCH 1, 1944

METAL MINES AND MILLS

Name of Mine or Plant Black HawkCounty Delaware, Post Office Rico, District Piñon

REPORT TO BUREAU OF MINES

STATE OF COLORADO

For the Year 1943

OWNER

Name of Company, Partnership or Individual Rico Argentine Mining CompanyAddress of Principal Office 132 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, UtahLocal Office Rico, Colo.If incorporated, under the laws of what state? Utah

Names, titles and addresses of Officers, Partners, Individuals

See No. 204

Names and numbers of patented claims

See former lists

If names of claims have been listed in previous reports, only changes, if any, need be given

Total acreage

Names of unpatented claims

Total acreage

Do you operate these claims yourself or are they being worked under lease? Operated under lease agreement

Was property operated in whole or in part during the past year?

If you have given a lease for all or part of the property give names and P. O. address of said lessee, together with description of part leased. Vanadium Corporation of America, Monticello Utah operated a portion for production of Iron Pyrites, for use in their Vanadium PlantIs the work done by your lessee included in this report? No operation other than noted above

Have you a mill or reduction works? If so, what is its character and capacity?

List all improvements and developments made during the year

OPERATOR

Name of Company, Partnership or Individual

Vanadium Corporation of America
Monticello, Utah

Address of Office

Name and address of those in charge of work

PRODUCTION

CRUDE OR SHIPPING ORE: No. of tons 1259.568 Average gross value per ton \$2.20 (to us)

Total value \$

Average grade of different metallic content in ores as follows:

Gold	oz.	Lead	%	Copper	%	Sulphur	<u>45</u> %
Silver	oz.	Zinc	%	Iron	<u>45</u> %	Fluorspar	%
Tungsten	%	Vanadium	%	Uranium	%	Molybdenum	%

MILLING ORE: Tons milled

Milling processes employed

Average gross value per ton crude ore milled \$

Average grade crude ore milled in different metals as follows:

Gold	oz.	Lead	%	Copper	%	Sulphur	%
Silver	oz.	Zinc	%	Iron	%	Fluorspar	%
Tungsten	%	Vanadium	%	Uranium	%	Molybdenum	%

BULLION: Sold to U. S. Mint or other places

Total amount: Gold

Silver

STATE OF COLORADO
BUREAU OF MINES

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

District No. Four

Rico

Colorado

May 22

1946

RICO ARGENTINE MINES & MILL

(Name of Mine, Quarry or Plant)

County, Dolores

Pioneer Mining District

Location, 2 miles east of Rico, Colorado

Rico, Colorado

(Nearest Town)

Reached by auto and trail

Owner Rico-Argentine Mining Company

Address Dooley Block, Salt Lake City, Utah

Operator Rico-Argentine Mining Company

Owner or Lessee

C.T. Van Winkle, Pres & Gen. Mgr., Salt Lake City, Utah and Rico, Colo

Address J.C. Johnson, Vice-Pres., 161 First Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah

W.G. Seeley, Secretary, 132 Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah

Name and address of agent, general manager or other officer on whom to serve notices

C. T. Van Winkle, Gen. Mgr., Dooley Block, Salt Lake City, Utah and Rico, Colo

Name and address of local manager or person in direct charge of operations

C.T. Van Winkle, Gen. Mgr., Dooley Block, Salt Lake City, Utah and Rico, Colo

Name and address of company or person to whom notification of Annual Report should be sent

C.T. Van Winkle, Gen. Mgr., Dooley Block, Salt Lake City, Utah and Rico, Colo

Character of ore or other products Sulphides, carrying gold, silver, Copper, lead, iron pyrites and zinc.

Production from Rico Argentine Mine was 19,876 tons
They milled from the entire group of mines, 36,882 tons

Producing

Not Producing

Number employed underground 51
Mine Surface 9

On surface Miscellaneous 4 Mill Surface 7

Compensation insurance carried

Compensation not carried

Accident Report Blanks are on hand.

Remarks: Have Telephone.

First Aid Supplies are provided.

Have Change Rooms.

Safety and Sanitary Conditions, in general, are satisfactory.

DESCRIPTION OF MINE:- This property is developed by five levels, at different distances apart. The Blaine Tunnel is the main haulageway. The Company is carrying on a major program of development at all

times.

Operations on the Rico-Argentine (proper) during the past year:-

Stoping continued on the 200 ft. Level.

A cross-cut was driven from the South Drift on the 300 ft. Level, 600 ft. to intersect the downward extension of ore bodies on the 200 ft. Level.

Operations on the Blaine Tunnel Level during the past year:-

The Rico Consolidated fissure was prospected by drifting, and the downward extension of ore bodies on upper levels were intersected by cross-cutting and raising.

A drift has been started to prospect the Last Chance fissure, Diamond drilling was done to prospect the Rico Argentine and Black Hawk fissures.

Diamond drilling on various levels of the Rico Argentine was 1696 feet. The Raise connecting the Argentine No. 3 Level with No. 2 Level started in 1945, has been completed. This raise is for ventilation purposes.

Electric and Air-driven Slusher Units are used in all stopes.

Both electric and air-driven Tugger-type Hoists are used in all raises inclines, etc. Hoists are equipped with $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " steel cable. Hoists, cables and skips are all in good condition.

Production from the Rico Argentine Mine was 19,876 tons.

The Rico Argentine Mill milled 36,882 tons from all the mines of the Rico Argentine Group.

The mine is closed Sundays, but the mill operates continuously.

The ore is found in beds and chimneys of various sizes and in fissure veins varying in width to 8 or more feet. The ore is a sulphide, carrying gold, silver, copper, lead, iron and zinc. Stated value of ore is up to \$20.00 a ton.

Wet drilling is practiced exclusively.

Mucking machines are used in all headings.

SURFACE PLANT:- The modern Flotation Mill has a capacity of 150 tons. It is constructed of steel and concrete, and covered with galvanized, corrugated iron. Equipment consists of Ore Bins, Crusher, Grizzlies, Ball Mill, Classifier, Flotation Units, Conditioning Tanks, Thickening Tanks, Filters, Pumps, Conveyor Belts, etc. An Inclined Conveyor Belt delivers the ore from the Primary Crushers to 500-ton capacity Secondary Ore Bins, thence to the Ball Mill. All moving parts are well guarded.

At the Blaine Tunnel is a Dry and Change Room with Shower and individual lockers, also Mine Office Building. Other buildings include a large Blacksmith Shop, which processes steel for the entire group of mines; Compressor House, which houses three electrically-driven Air Compressors; Machine Shop; Electric Shops; Assay Office and well equipped Laboratory; a building housing Mine Office; Store Room and a fully equipped First Aid Room and other small buildings used for various purposes, all of wood, steel and concrete construction, covered with galvanized corrugated iron, also Tram Terminals, Ore Bins and Snow Sheds.

New additions have been added to various buildings from time to time.

A well-equipped Saw Mill is located in the yards.

Men live in Rico.

In the town of Rico is located the Engineering Office, Administration Offices, etc.

SHAFTS:- The old Argentine Shaft mentioned in previous reports is used now only for ventilation and exit for men. Also all water from lower levels is pumped thru this shaft to the surface. It is maintained in good condition.

All ores are now hoisted to Blaine (No. 1) Tunnel thru No. 3 Shaft

which is 3-compartment, 280 feet in depth and connects No.3 Argentine Level with Blaine (No.1) Level. No.3 Shaft is equipped with single-drum electrically-driven Hoist with 3/4" Cable and Cage. All this equipment, fastenings, etc., is kept in good condition. All moving parts are covered and guarded.

UNDERGROUND HAULAGE is Battery Locomotive on main haulageway, man power on all other levels. All this equipment is in good condition.

TIMBERING:- Considerable timbering is necessary in this mine, and is well installed. All openings are well covered and guarded. Ladders are well installed and in good condition.

EXPLOSIVES:- Explosives are safely stored in well-built Magazines. Underground Distributing Magazines for daily supply of powder are kept in good condition. Caps are safely stored. Carbide is stored in a safe, dry place. Both electric and hand blasting is practiced.

ELECTRICITY is used for power and lighting both underground and surface. It is well installed, insulated, grounded and guarded.

They have telephone to the surface in all stations.

FIRE PROTECTION consists of high pressure water and chemical extinguishers. Fire Doors are provided.

VENTILATION is both natural and mechanical, with electrically-driven Blowers.

MISCELLANEOUS:- This property operated continuously throughout the year. They are now milling approximately 110 tons per 24 hour day in the Rico-Argentine Mill, making two products, one silver-lead, the other zinc.

Concentrates are trucked two miles to the R.G.S. Railroad, thence shipped by rail to smelters.

The Saw Mill mentioned in this report goes a long way toward alleviating the difficulty of obtaining commercial lumber.

The Rico Argentine Company maintains a Caterpillar Tractor, equipped with both Snow Plow and Dozer which they use for building and maintaining roads to all of their operating units.

Everything is exceptionally clean and orderly about this property.

The Company co-operates fully with the State Bureau of Mines and with the Inspector, and insists upon observation of safety rules and regulations.

Respectfully submitted

D.C. H. Hargrave

State Metal Mine Inspector, District No. 4

1846 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

U. S. B. STATE OF COLORADO
OF MINES

JUL 2 1971



FILED FOR RECORD

Date JUL 2 1971

BUREAU OF MINES
Department of Natural Resources

INFORMATION REPORT

No. I-43

Date June 10, 1971

County Dolores

Assistant Commissioner of Mines

RICO ARGENTINE MINE

Name of Operation

Rico Argentine Mining Company

Operator

Rico Argentine Mining Company

Owner

Orval Jahne

Person Locally in Charge

Rico Argentine Mining Company

To Whom Shall Annual Report Be Sent

Mine

Kind of Operation

Box 158, Rico, Colorado 81322

Address of Operator

Box 158, Rico, Colorado 81322

Address of Owner

Box 158, Rico, Colorado 81322

Address of Person in Charge

Continuous from 1970

This mine ceased operation May 26, 1971.

If New Operation, When Did Work Start

Producing	Development	Exploration	Part Time	Idle
Products <u>Lead, zinc, copper, gold, & silver.</u> Monthly Rate of Production				
Value of Products \$		Number of Days Operated		<u>90 days 19 71</u>
Men Employed: Total	<u>5</u>	Underground	<u>4</u>	Surface <u>1</u> Other

Location This mine is located one mile east of Rico, Colorado on Silver Creek;
Sec 20 T40N R10W

Description
of Property
& Operation

Mining operations were ceased May 26, 1971. All equipment has been removed below the 500, 600, and 700 levels, including the shaft sinking hoist. These lower levels will be allowed to flood, the St. Louis Tunnel is connected at the 500 level and any flooding above this elevation will be drained through this connection.

A merger has been anticipated and any resumption of mining operations depends on the outcome of this. The Rico Argentine Company has no plans for reopening and development at this time.

Surface Same
Buildings

Machinery, Compressors, Hoists, Etc. All machinery has been removed from underground on 500, 600, and 700 levels.

Type of Ground Support

Post - Pillars and Square Sets

Ventilation

Mechanical

Geological Formation

Rico Formation

Size of Vein or Deposit

Veins and beddings.

Miscellaneous (Obtain a Current Underground Map)

(N.S.P.)

*Rico Argentine Mining Co.
Colorado*